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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8490
INFO RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE 0254
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE 0088
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE 0191
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE 0186
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE 0785

CONFIDENTIAL VIENNA 002326

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DEPARTMENT FOR DRL/NESCA (BARGHOUT), NEA/ELA (RANA), AND EUR/ERA (GIAUQUE).

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/31/2017
TAGS: PHUM PREL KDEM SA SY AU
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO AUSTRIA: TRAVEL BAN ON SYRIAN ACTIVIST
RIAD SEIF

REF: STATE 119436

Classified By: Economic-Political Counselor J. Dean Yap for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) EconPolOff delivered reftel demarche on August 31 to Franz Kuglitsch of the MFA's Middle East Department. Kuglitsch stated that the GoA is aware of the travel ban on Riad Seif and fully supports the USG position on this issue. He added that Austria was coordinating with other EU members to approach the GoS with confidential demarches on this matter. He repeatedly cautioned, however, that the Austrian and EU actions vis-a-vis Syria remain confidential as this would create better odds for a favorable outcome to the situation.

Kilner